Castilleja

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Native Plant Society

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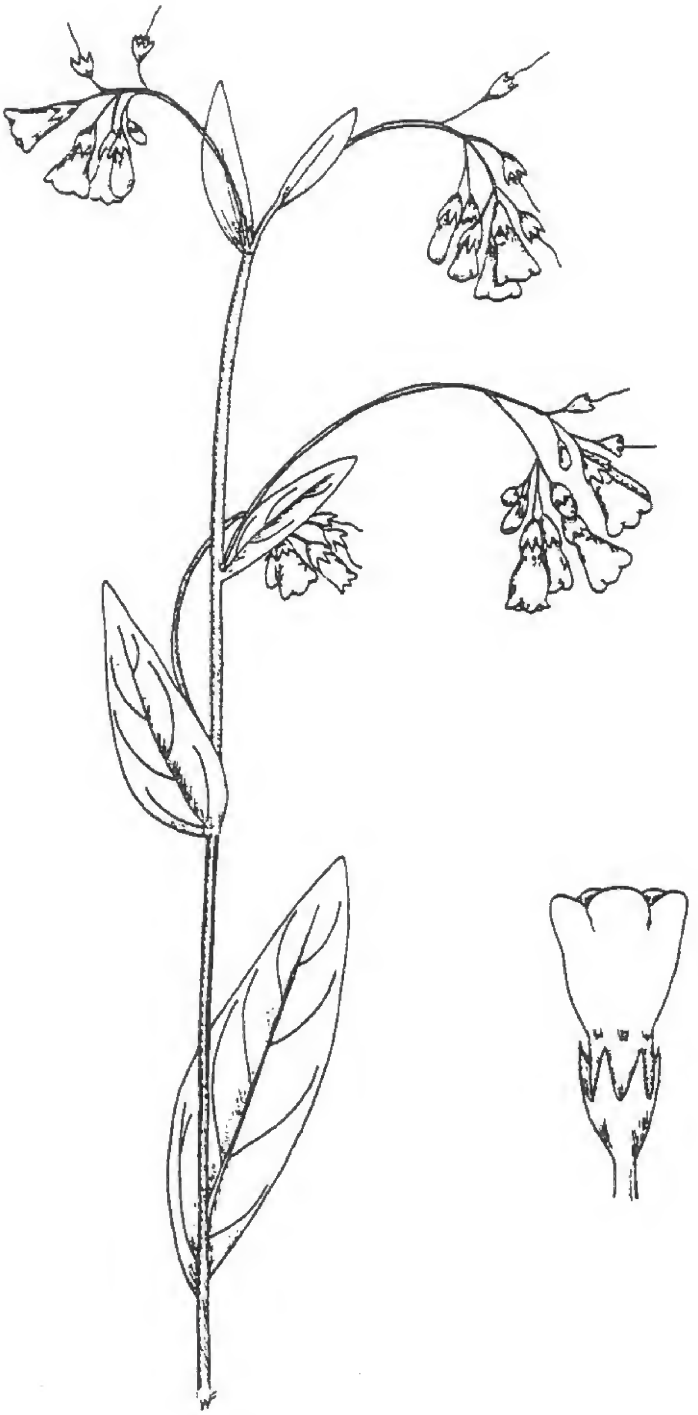

Arizona bluebell (*Mertensia arizonica*) is one of two species of tall bluebell in Wyoming. It differs from the more widespread *M. ciliata* in having longer, more sharp-tipped calyx lobes. *M. arizonica* is relatively uncommon in Wyoming, where it is known primarily from moist areas in the Bighorn and Uinta Mountains. In all, Wyoming is home to nine species of *Mertensia*, all of which can be recognized by their tubular, sky-blue corollas and 4-parted nutlet fruits (typical of most members of the Borage Family). Identification of bluebell species in the field can be made difficult by hybridization. Ill. by W. Fertig.

WNPS NEWS

Scholarship Award: The Board received 4 outstanding applications for the 1996 WNPS scholarship. In the closest vote in recent years, it was decided to split the award equally between Kathy Doyle and Laura Welp, both graduate students in the Department of Botany at the University of Wyoming. Kathy is completing a PhD project on fire ecology in the Teton Range and Laura is completing a floristic study of the Red Desert region of central Wyoming. Both students received $200.00. This year's awards were made possible due to generous donations to the scholarship fund by our members.

Annual Meeting: The 1996 WNPS annual meeting and field trip are scheduled for the weekend of August 3-4 1996 in the Snowy Range of the Medicine Bow Mountains. The Saturday field trip (August 3) will focus on alpine wildflowers in the vicinity of Medicine Bow and Brown's peak. Members and guests are asked to meet at the Libby Flats parking area off State Highway 130 at 9:00 AM for a (hopefully) short business meeting. We will then proceed to the base of Brown's Peak, exploring the plants and plant communities of the timberline zone. Time and weather permitting, we will also explore subalpine forest habitats in the vicinity. Depending on interest, a half-day field trip will be held on Sunday (August 4) in the Laramie Range. Those attending this trip should plan to meet at the Lincoln rest area off Interstate 80 east of Laramie at 9:00 AM. Participants in all of the field trips should bring their own lunch, plenty of water, good hiking shoes, floras and field guides, and should be prepared for cool or rainy weather.

A 1-day general plant identification workshop is also scheduled for Monday, August 5 in the Vedauwoo area of the Laramie Range. This workshop is aimed at improving keying skills in the field and will emphasize grassland and riparian species. Participants should bring a hand lens, a copy of Dorn's "*Vascular Plants of Wyoming*", lunch, water, and appropriate hiking clothing and gear. Please meet at the Lincoln rest area off Interstate 80 at 8:30 AM (the workshop will run from 8:30-4:00 PM).

Tensleep Field Trip: A second summer field trip has been scheduled for the weekend of July 12-14 at The Nature Conservancy's Tensleep Preserve on the west flanks of the Bighorn Range. Members are invited to explore the mesas, canyons, woods, and sage meadows of the Preserve and assist in the compilation of a more up-to-date plant species list for the area. We will also be able to see several rare species restricted to the Bighorn Range, including Cary beardtongue (*Penstemon caryi*) and Hapeman's sullivantia (*Sullivantia hapemanii*). Tent camping and kitchen facilities will be provided, but visitors are asked to bring their own food, bedding, and toiletries. Tent sites will be available on Friday, July 12 after 3:00 PM through Sunday morning. Guests are asked not to bring pets. To reach the Preserve, take Highway 16 between Worland and Buffalo. Turn south on State Highway 436 approximately 2.5 miles east of the town of Ten Sleep (which incidentally has a great soda fountain). Continue on Highway 436 for 11 miles (this road is paved for the first several miles before turning into a good quality gravel road). At mile 11 turn left off Highway 436 at a tall wooden gate with a pair of green metal gates underneath it. Follow the signs for 1.9 miles to the tent camp. For those arriving Saturday, please plan to meet by 9:00 AM.

Membership Renewal/Elections: Enclosed on the ballot in this issue is the annual renewal form. All members with 94, 95, or 96 on their mailing label need to renew their membership to remain in good standing and participate in the election of Board members. The following members have agreed or been cajoled into running for the Board: Jennifer Whipple (President), Charmaine Refsdal (Vice-President), Walter Fertig (Secretary-Treasurer), and Katy Duffy (Board). Jean Daly is the carry-over Board Member. Please also indicate what area(s) of the state you would like to visit for next year's annual meeting/field trip.

New Members: Please welcome the following new members of WNPS: Junior Gordon (Primm Springs, TN), Amy Roderick (Laramie) and Emmett Sullivan (Kemmerer).

Attention Readers: We are always looking for articles and illustrations from members for the newsletter. Items for the October issue are needed by 15 September, 1996.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 15 May 1996: General Fund $ 432.87; 1996-97 Scholarship Fund $ 76.00; Total Funds: $ 508.87 WF

Wyoming Native Plant Society
1604 Grand Ave., Laramie, WY 82070

President: Barbara Amidon (Rock Springs)
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Diana Osuna (Kelly)
Newsletter Editor: Walt Fertig (307) 745-5026 (wk)
Contributors to this issue: John Baxter, Jim Borland, Walter Fertig (WF), Mary Neighbours, and Bill Schneider.

Editorial

Jackson Ski Area Expansion Threatens Native Plants

By Katy Duffy,
Teton Chapter, WNPS

Editors Note: The Jackson Hole Ski Area is seeking approval from Bridger-Teton National Forest to expand its operation on the slopes of Rendezvous Mountain, just west of Jackson, WY. The area in the vicinity of the existing tram is known to have a number of Forest Service Sensitive and state rare plant species.

The Wyoming Native Plant Society is an organization dedicated to conservation of the native flora and native plant communities of Wyoming. The Teton County Chapter has reviewed the draft EIS for the Jackson Hole Ski Area Master Development Plan Revision [on Rendezvous Mountain] and would like to offer the following comments:

We strongly recommend that the project area be surveyed rigorously for sensitive plants and unique plant communities before construction, preferably throughout the 1996 field season to detect plants with different appearance and flowering times. Locations of sensitive species and unique plant communities should be mapped precisely so that these locations will receive complete protection during construction.

Increased visitor use of the area at the top of the tram has already resulted in widespread trampling of fragile alpine vegetation. Even without further development, there needs to be a controlled trail system leading from the top of the tram to protect alpine vegetation whose existence is already tenuous due to the severity of life above treeline.

A known population of Payson's bladderpod (*Lesquerella paysonii*), [a Forest Service Sensitive species], occurs near the top of the tram. In *Rare Plants of Grand Teton National Park* (1993), Hollis Marriott observed that this population of bladderpod had already been disturbed. A population of aromatic pussytoes (*Antennaria aromatica*) near the top of the tram was eradicated due to summer visitors trampling it. We fear that expansion of the ski area and concomitant increase in summer use will jeopardize the continued existence of sensitive and other alpine plants. Although Appendix B of the draft EIS (page B-9) states that "further mitigation will be necessary to avoid ground disturbance to the rare plant population [*L. paysonii*] and its associated habitat", there is no provision for including the nature of the mitigation for this and other rare plants in the final EIS after surveys for sensitive species have been completed.

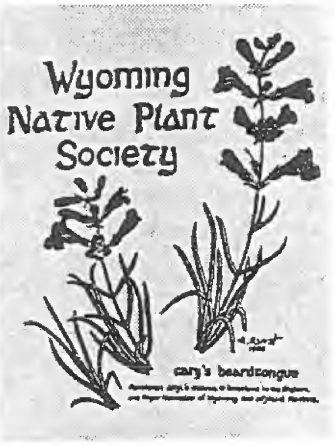
All ground disturbance should be at the lowest level. Level III disturbance is obviously devastating to native plant communities and must be avoided or at least reduced. Level III ground disturbance should never occur above 8,500 feet. Summer grooming involves Level III disturbance and must be reduced or eliminated. We are concerned that decisions to increase the level of disturbance will be made on site after the project has been approved, so we would like to see a provision in the final EIS that prevents this from happening.

Because of the proximity to Grand Teton National Park, expansion of the ski area is likely to have adverse impacts on adjacent alpine and subalpine areas of the park. We are concerned about the possibility of mountain biking in the ski area, which will result in increased erosion and damage to native vegetation. Although mountain biking is not allowed in the backcountry of Grand Teton National Park, if bikers have access to the ski area, illegal bicycling is almost certain to become a problem.

We urge the Forest Service to make the Vegetation Managament Plan part of the final Record of Decision to assure sufficient protection of native plant communities. The plan must also contain measures to prevent and control noxious weeds (eg., hay that has been certified weed-free). We are concerned that there be adequate mitigation to ensure domination by native plant species throughout the project area. Revegetation after ground disturbance must be done with native plants, not commercially available mixes that contain persistent exotic plants such as yellow sweet clover (which is actually a noxious weed).

The Teton County Chapter of the Wyoming Native Plant Society would like to receive a copy of the Vegetation Management Plan for this project when it is completed. We would also like to receive scoping statements concerning other projects that affect native plant communities.

(Adapted from a letter to Sandra Key, Forest Supervisor, Bridger-Teton National Forest, PO Box 1888, Jackson, WY, 83001, prepared by the Teton Chapter of WNPS. Editorials in *Castilleja* reflect the opinion of the author. Contrasting viewpoints are welcome).



Exotics: Good Guys or Bad Guys?

By Bill Schneider

There are scores of non-native plant species commonly cultivated and naturalized throughout the Rocky Mountain region. A very small percentage of these species could be considered a threat to the native flora and fauna. But these relatively few species are profoundly changing the landscape. Given that not all introduced species have the same potential to naturalize and become a problem, how do we distinguish the good guys from the bad guys? This issue was previously discussed in two articles that appeared in *Castilleja* concerning Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*).

Respectfully, I would like to take issue with Dr. Dorn's editorial in the March 1996 *Castilleja* and continue the debate. The issue here has implications far beyond this single plant species. Increasingly, ecologists, taxonomists, and others acknowledge that the introduction and spread of exotic plants and animals is perhaps a threat to the environment and native biodiversity unequaled by development, pollution, and even clearing of rain forest.

What is native?

Before sorting out which introduced species are a problem, we must determine what "native" means. Distinguishing natives from non-natives is not always easily done and the process is subject to a great deal of debate.

Species naturally move and migrate; their natural ranges expand and contract over time. Humans are known to have moved plants and animals around the world for thousands of years, whether by intent or accident. So how long must a species be naturalized before it is considered native? There are several ways to distinguish native species from non-natives: temporally (by successional niche or time of introduction in archaeologic, geologic, or human history), spatially (by range or site), and/or taxonomically. Pre-European settlement is often used in North America as a temporal frame of reference. Although pre-European settlement is somewhat arbitrary, the great number and types of species introduced since settlement and the breadth of these introductions are unprecedented in history.

What constitutes an invasive exotic plant?

"Direct competition", which implies invasiveness, does not tell the whole story. Competitiveness can be the result of one or more adaptive (and sometimes incidental) characteristics. Therefore the term "problematic" is perhaps better than "invasive" when describing exotics that degrade the environment. Commonly, it is assumed that the absence of insects and pathogens normally associated with a particular species in its native habitat may confer competitive advantage in its new habitat. This may or may not be true. Some exotic plant species have allelopathic properties that suppress the native species growing near them. Other exotics out-perform their native associates by leafing out earlier in the season and holding their leaves longer in the fall. Even horticultural selection of some species has imparted greater competitiveness by breeding in broader environmental adaptability, and more consistent and prolific flowering and fruiting.

Exotics can have degrading impacts on the environment in many other ways; it is not merely an issue of the displacement of one or more native species by an exotic, but the cascading implications this can cause to the balance of nature. Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) for example, is well known to disrupt natural ecosystems by dramatically impacting regional hydrology in addition to direct displacement of native species. Establishment of some exotic species can suppress fire in fire-dependent landscapes and therefore dramatically alter reproduction and natural successional trends. In addition, introduced plant species may serve as alternate hosts for pathogens to which a native species is susceptible. Such is the case with Cedar apple rust, *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianiae*. This rust requires both the *Juniperus* spp. and the apple, *Malus pumila*, introduced from Europe, as hosts (this is not to suggest that we should exterminate the beloved apple). The myriad of adaptive advantages some exotics exert over native flora defies generalization and is difficult to predict before the species is well established. Problematic exotics have the net effect of disrupting ecological processes and thus, decreasing overall natural biodiversity.

It is important to recognize that exotics can have deleterious effects in highly disturbed habitats as well as "intact systems". A broad view should be taken since few intact ecosystems still exist within the United States; altered ecosystems now account for the majority of habitat for native fauna and flora. In addition, the future of the "undisturbed" ecosystems will depend on the wise management of the disturbed ecosystems that surround them.

It is often argued that just because a species is problematic in one area it may not be a problem in another, a point Dr. Dorn made in his editorial. He asserts "it is very risky to assume that problems in one area are the same in other areas." What is the risk of making such an assumption? The risk is perhaps being wrong and not planting the exotic species. On the other side, the risk of ignoring the potential problem and planting the suspect species anyway, is a risk to the environment as well as the economy of a region. There are many examples of species being introduced and only later becoming an ecological problem as well as an agricultural (and economic) pest. The introduction of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) to the Bitterroot Valley in Montana for honey bee forage is

but one costly example. Dispersal by wind, water, animals, and machinery increases the risk of spreading a species from a site where it isn't a problem to another where it will be. Perhaps the most compelling reason not to plant a suspect species such as Russian olive is we just don't know. Why take the risk?

The "epidemiology" of establishment of problematic species is not well understood. The vast majority of these species have been on the continent since before the turn of the century. Why is it then, that in many cases these species "behaved" themselves for decades before they became a problem? Perhaps several generations of selection are needed before super-adaptive individuals appear in significant numbers. Dr. A. Reznicek at the University of Michigan suggests another idea and uses this analogy. One lily pad is placed in a pond and doubles its cover over the surface each day. On day 30 the pond is completely covered. On what day is the pond half covered?... on day 29. The exponential reproduction is likely to be responsible for these problems seemingly coming out of nowhere. In general, infestations of problem plants follow development. Therefore, Wyoming may not be ecologically immune to Russian olive, Siberian elm, (*Ulmus pumila*) and other species known to be a problem in other places in the Rocky Mountain region.

Reasons for using exotics

The common refrain associated with the promotion of exotic plant materials is that they are hardy, disease free, have few insect pests, reproduce or propagate easily, and provide food or cover for wildlife. These characteristics are precisely what makes some exotic species such serious competitors when released into a new ecosystem or habitat. It is perhaps human nature to try to enhance nature's bounty, but when we plant a handful of exotic plants to enhance wildlife, only a handful of wildlife species benefit (some of which were introduced themselves). Reliance on natural processes and the native vegetation they support is the best long-term strategy for the survival of the greatest number of native species.

To suggest that we should attempt to eradicate all problematic species would be foolish. It would also be foolish to continue to encourage the introduction and spread of these species. It is time to challenge the mentality that new and better species for wildlife habitat, erosion control, agriculture, or ornamental horticulture are a panacea. The Wyoming Native Plant Society has an important role to play in not only preserving the native landscape, but promoting the use of native plants in landscaping, agriculture set-aside and conservation programs, and wildlife enhancement.

Additional Reading:

US Congress Office of Technology Assessment. 1993. Harmful Non-indigenous Species in the United States. OTA-F-565.

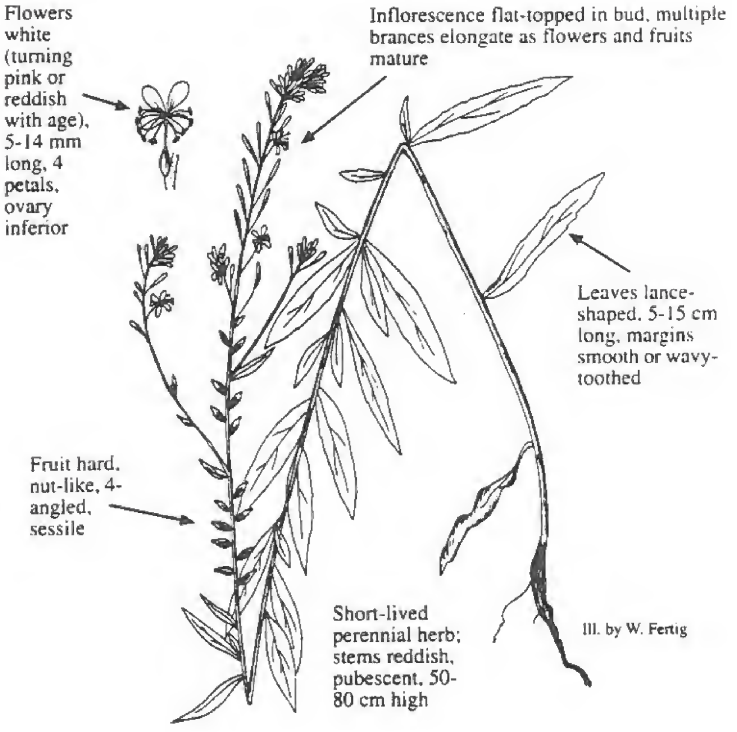
McKnight, B. N., ed. 1993. Biological Pollution - the Control and Impact of Invasive Exotic Species. Indiana Academy of Science, Indianapolis, IN.

Botany Briefs

Botanical News from Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain Region

New USFWS Candidate Plant List: On February 28, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published its most recent list of Candidate species for potential listing as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Previously, only two Wyoming plants were recognized as candidates : *Arabis pusilla* (Small rockcress) and *Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis* (Colorado butterfly plant). The 1996 list includes one additional species, *Yermo xanthocephalus* (desert yellowhead). *Y. xanthocephalus* is the only known species in its genus and is restricted to a single small occurrence in south-central Fremont County, Wyoming. As reported in the October 1995 issue of *Castilleja*, USFWS has dropped the C2 and 3C designations and is no longer officially recognizing approximately 50 former Wyoming C2 species as candidates for legal protection. WF

Below: Colorado butterfly plant. Ill. By W. Fertig.



Horticultural Notes

Chrysothamnus nauseosus

By Jim Borland
Horticultural Consultant

(Reprinted from the January-March 1996 issue of *Aquilegia*, the newsletter of the Colorado Native Plant Society).

The end of the growing season is seldom heralded by many blooming shrubs. Unusual in this respect, however, is *Chrysothamnus* (rabbitbrush), which festoons the western landscape from Canada to Mexico with golden-colored plumes of flowers.

Rabbitbrush grows native from the Great Plains to above timberline (up to about 10,000 ft), a vast area that includes hardiness zones 2, 3, and 4.

Used sparingly in today's landscapes, *C. nauseosus*, along with several other rabbitbrush species, is becoming important in water-scarce environments. Nearly all rabbitbrush species exhibit the same growth pattern - multistemmed and upright but rounded. They differ mainly in height and winter stem color, which varies from green to blue to white.

C. nauseosus var. *graveolens* is a midsized race measuring 2 to 3 feet tall with gray-green stems and leaves. *C. nauseosus* var. *nauseosus*, on the other hand, is referred to in the trade as dwarf blue because of its shorter height and noticeable bluish stems and leaves. Both display 1 to 2 inch long linear leaves arranged alternately on densely hairy stems, and both bloom in late summer or fall.

Rabbitbrush can tolerate drought. Deep taproots, branching extensively at depths of 6 feet or more, help it thrive on less than 15 inches of annual precipitation. In addition, rabbitbrush accommodates almost all soil types, including sandy and gravelly soils and clay loams, as well as saline conditions. When planting rabbitbrush, consider only sunny, dry locations to avoid weak, drooping habits and root disease. Once established in an area without excess water, it seldom experiences problems more significant than an occasional aphid or stem gall infestation, neither of which is seriously debilitating.

Used singly or in masses, most rabbitbrushes can be sheared or cut almost to the ground each winter. However, neither practice is needed or recommended for a natural effect.

Since it has proved so difficult to propagate rabbitbrush from cuttings, most people propagate it from seed, which germinates best at 60 to 70 degrees F with light. Approximately 50% of the tiny pappus-bound seeds germinate 2 to 4 days after sowing. Without special storage conditions, the seed remains commercially viable for only one year.

When nursery grown in almost any soil, rabbitbrush produces 1-gal. plants after one season, and 5-gal. plants after two seasons.

Artemisia Rusts in Wyoming

By John Baxter

Six species of rust fungi parasitize *Artemisia* species in North America. Five of these rusts occur in Wyoming, and the type specimens of two species, *Puccinia similis* and *Uromyces oblongisporus*, were collected in Wyoming.

Puccinia similis has been reported on 34 species of *Artemisia* (Arthur and Cummins 1962). In addition to these records, *Artemisia porteri* and *A. scopulorum* are susceptible, as demonstrated by recent controlled innoculation. In Wyoming, this rust is usually most abundant on *Artemisia tridentata*, *A. cana* and *A. tripartita*. It has also been collected on *Sphaeromeria capitata* and *S. diversifolia* (commonly called false sagebrushes). The Laramie false sagebrush, *S. simplex* (a Wyoming endemic) is probably susceptible.

Field observations in 1994 suggested that *Puccinia similis* shows the kind of life cycle variability that occasionally occurs in sunflower rust (Carleton 1904, Bailey 1923). Infection by overwintered teliospores usually results in the formation of spermagonia followed by aecia, but occasionally results in the production of spermagonia followed by uredinia. This variability has been demonstrated by recent controlled innoculations.

Puccinia cnici-oleracei, a short-cycle rust (producing only teliospores and basidiospores) has a worldwide distribution on many genera of Compositae. In Wyoming it occurs most commonly on *Artemisia frigida* and *A. ludoviciana*. In areas where these hosts are heavily infected it can usually be found on *Achillea millefolium*.

Two other *Puccinia* species parasitize *Artemisia* in Wyoming. These are *P. ludovicianae* on *A. ludoviciana* and *P. tanaceti* var. *dracunculina* on *A. dracunculus* (tarragon). The type specimen of the latter rust was collected by Bartholemew and Bethel near Boulder, Colorado.

Uromyces oblongisporus is known only from the type specimen collected by Aven Nelson near South Butte, Sweetwater County, in 1897 on *Artemisia tridentata*. The fact that this rust has been collected only once is probably, in the words of that old popular song, "just one of those things". Considering the abundance and wide distribution of

A. tridentata, we can be reasonably sure that *U. oblongisporus* is out there somewhere, waiting to be collected.

References:

Arthur, J.C. and G.B. Cummins. 1962. Manual of the Rusts in United States and Canada. Purdue Research Foundation, Lafayette, IN.

Bailey, D.L. 1923. Sunflower rust. Minn. Agr. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bull. 16:1-31.

Carleton, M.A. 1904. Investigations of rusts. US Dept. Agr. Bur. Pl. Ind. Bul. 63: 1-29.

Cummins, G.B. 1978. Rust fungi on legumes and composites in North America. Univ. Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.

Dried Flowers

By Mary Neighbours

Dried flowers are quite the fad today, and anyone who endures the long winters in Wyoming knows what pleasure it is to encounter something green in February, even if it is dried out. To combat the winter blues, I have started drying flowers and I have some insights that I thought I might share.

I started out by drying some of my garden flowers (exotics to be sure), which worked so well that I have now graduated to native plants. Of course, one must be judicious when picking native plants and not decimate the population. However, last year the hills were blue with *Delphinium* and the ridges were yellow with *Balsamorhiza*; hopefully this will be a good year as well.

Choose plants with some discretion. Many of the colors will fade slightly when they are dried, but the color will usually remain for some time. I usually dry new ones every summer and replace those from the previous year, which are dust-covered and faded from light exposure in the house. Some plants are not good choices for drying since the flowers normally fall off. I think *Lupinus* would be in this category, although I have not actually tried to dry any yet. I did not have any luck drying poppies from my garden. *Delphinium* does dry well for a deep blue to almost purple color.

Shrubs like sagebrush can be dried for filler, and grasses like ricegrass (*Oryzopsis*) can be picked after the seeds are gone for straw-colored background. I dried some needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*) when it was in bloom and early flower one year and it was quite pretty, although it curled up around itself and didn't look much like *Stipa* when it was done.

Most Compositae (sunflower family) seem to dry well, although the ray flowers are often rather fragile and may break off easily. I tried *Erigeron* once, to get the blue ray flowers. It was only mildly successful since the rays shattered whenever anyone barely touched them. *Balsamorhiza* dries well but is also delicate, but *Gaillardia* (Indian blanket) works well. The trick seems to be to pick flowers in the early to full bloom stage when the colors are at their peak.

Now that you have picked them, what do you do? There are several techniques, the simplest of which is to tie them into a bundle and hang them upside down to dry, preferably in a dark or low-light spot which is well-aerated. Since the humidity is so low in Wyoming, they will dry fairly quickly, even flowers and leaves of garden stonecrop (*Sedum*). This is a good way to do composites and *Delphinium*. Other suggestions: buckwheat (*Eriogonum)* and wild begonia (*Rumex hymenosepalus*). Experiment!

Another technique is to stand the flower upright in a drying medium which will preserve its form so that it does not curl up as it drys. I have not actually done this, but a friend used a mixture of cornmeal and borax to dry some *Aquilegia* last year and they still look great. Clean, fine white sand should also work: the red sand so common in Wyoming might work, but might also leave some color on the flowers. The technique is to fix the stem in the bottom of a container, then carefully "sift" the sand or cornmeal around the flower a little at a time so as not to crush the flower, but pack it carefully to preserve the shape. You must also get some inside the flower so the inner portion does not collapse.

Finally, a technique that I read about in a magazine is to use the microwave. I have not tried it but here's a description: Pack the flower carefully, as above, in fine cat litter to absorb water. Then put it in the microwave for only about one minute. This takes some experimentation in order to get the microwave timing and power setting correct. This is a quick way, although it seems like you may want to wait a short while before removing the flower to ensure that the water is completely absorbed. The article suggested drying marigolds this way.

The easiest way to use dried flowers is to arrange them in a bouquet before you dry them. This doesn't always work, because the effect you want may include flowers that do not bloom at the same time. If this is the case it is a good idea to dry more than you think you may need because there will always be some that fall apart when you untie your bundles. For those of you who live at a low enough altitude in Wyoming to grow roses in your garden, try drying the young blossoms and giving them to friends over the winter - you'll be greatly appreciated.

The Wyoming Native Plant Society, established in 1981, is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging the appreciation and conservation of the native flora and plant communities of Wyoming. The Society promotes education and research on native plants of the state through its newsletter, field trips, and annual student scholarship award. Membership is open to individuals, families, or organizations with an interest in Wyoming's flora. Members receive *Castilleja*, the Society's quarterly publication, and may take part in all of the Society's programs and projects, including the annual meeting/field trip held each summer. Dues are $5.00 annually.

To join the Wyoming Native Plant Society, return the membership form below to:

Wyoming Native Plant Society
1604 Grand Ave.
Laramie, WY 82070

Name _____

Address:

_____

_____

__ $5.00 Regular membership

__ $15.00 Scholarship Supporting Member
($10.00 goes to the annual scholarship fund)

WYOMING NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
1604 Grand Avenue
Laramie, WY 82070

The Botany 130 Songbook

Has Anybody Seen My Mold?

(Tune: 5-foot-2, eyes of blue)

By John "Barney " Baxter
Poet lariat of Wyoming

I wrote this song in 1970, after encountering a huge slime mold, 5 feet long and nearly 2 feet wide, at the field station of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It was a very wet year.

Five-foot-two
Grayish-blue,
Great big blob of slimy goo,
Has anybody seen my mold?

All around, leaves are brown,
And the snow is sifting down,
My slime mold's out there in the cold.

So if you run into five-foot-two,
Feed him for me.
Raw oatmeal will make him feel
Full of Christmas cheer and glee.

Go man, go, through the snow,
Find my five-foot *Fuligo*
Has anybody seen my mold?